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# Letter dated 17 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and further to my previous letters regarding the occupation by Egypt of the Sudanese Hala'ib Triangle (the Hala'ib Triangle, Shalatin and Abu Ramad) and the ongoing efforts to change and erase the demographic characteristics and the Sudanese identity of the Triangle, I transmit to you herewith an update on those efforts, which are in violation of international law, including international humanitarian law, and are contrary to the principle of the peaceful resolution of conflicts that is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and other relevant international instruments. The Sudan has strived assiduously to give effect to that principle by proposing that this dispute should be resolved through conflict resolution methods, including arbitration, if the Egyptian Government does not end its occupation of the Triangle. It is also the principle that we believe should be followed by our two States, which share numerous deep bonds, including neighbourliness, and the Government of the Sudan is keen to maintain those bonds.

I should like to inform you that the Government of the Sudan rejects and does not recognize those measures and practices, which are contrary to international law, customary international law and the close relations between the countries.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative of the Sudan

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## Annex to the letter dated 17 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

## Measures being taken by the Egyptian Government to Egyptianize the Sudanese Hala'ib Triangle (Hala'ib, Shalatin and Abu Ramad)

On 18 March 2017, in implementation of a decree promulgated by the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, a new phase in the forced Egyptianization of the Hala'ib Triangle began. In that Decree, the President of Egypt ordered the demolition of buildings, commercial establishments and Government facilities. Bulldozers, protected by a large number of Egyptian army troops and police, razed 164 stores at the Abu Ramad market and 40 houses in each of Hala'ib, Shalatin and Abu Ramad that belonged to Sudanese nationals from the Bishariyin and Ababdah tribes. The demolitions were carried out under the pretext that the buildings were decrepit and illegal, and promises were made that new buildings and houses would be built. The demolitions were met with strong protests and roundly rejected by the population.

The Egyptian army began establishing a military post with an area of approximately 1,800 square metres. The Egyptian Corps of Engineers set up the post to the west of the gate at the 22nd parallel entry/exit point.

An Egyptian delegation comprising representatives of the Ministry of Information and the Governor of Red Sea governorate, accompanied by several journalists, visited Halai'b and inaugurated a building for the Egyptian broadcasting authority in that city.

The Egyptian Minister of Awqaf promulgated a decision to establish an *awqaf* office in Hala'ib. The head of the Central Office for Engineering Affairs, Mr. Mirghani al-Hijrawi, was charged with the construction of the facilities for the *awqaf* office.

The Egyptian Government started building a cultural centre in the Shalatin area.

As part of the Egyptianization plan, the local inhabitants of the area were offered such incentives as free health care, education, electricity, water and housing units in the Triangle. Following are some the incentives that were offered:

(a) Construction of several paved roads in the cities that make up the Triangle;

(b) Construction of several housing units in Abu Ramad, Shalatin and Hala'ib;

(c) Extension of electricity lines to some homes;

(d) Construction of a desalination plant in Shalatin;

(e) Demolition of school buildings and construction of replacement buildings;

(f) Construction of a hospital in Shalatin;

(g) Construction of a radio and television station building in Hala'ib;

(h) Construction of a Civil Register office in Shalatin;

(i) Construction of a prison in New Hala'ib city;

(j) Construction of a cultural centre in Abu Ramad.

Egypt has also imposed its school curriculum in place of the Sudanese school curriculum, demolished Sudanese schools and built new schools in the Egyptian style, and renamed schools after prominent Egyptian figures.

In addition, the Egyptian authorities opened an Egyptian Civil Register office in Shalatin in order to issue Egyptian personal documents, including birth certificates and national identification cards, but not passports, which are issued in the Egyptian city of Ghardaqah.

The Egyptian military presence in the occupied Triangle consists of an Egyptian infantry brigade based in Abu Ramad that covers the various parts of the Triangle, and an Egyptian warship is docked at Hala'ib Island. Intelligence and police forces are also deployed in various parts of the occupied Triangle.

The Egyptian authorities summoned local leaders, mayors and chiefs and forcibly transported them to Cairo to meet Egyptian Government officials, who reaffirmed to them that the Hala'ib Triangle is under Egyptian sovereignty and offered them the choice of either remaining in the Triangle or being forcibly expelled, if they were to oppose the Egyptian presence.